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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1914.

ENGLAND STILL SEA MISTRESS

Beginning the new year England views clear paths in the seven seas for her commerce. From authoritative estimates it is learned that 98 per cent of her vessels over 100 tons displacement are playing the oceans, and they represent 97 per cent of the gross tonnage of the United Kingdom vessels. Germany has less than a dozen big vessels known to be at sea, and 850 other ships varying from small coasters to ships of over 500 tons that are not accounted for, giving her at the topmost estimate some 40 per cent of her commerce now plying, and in tonnage percentage only 10.7. Over 1,200 German ships have been captured, detained in British or allied ports, sought refuge in neutral ports, or are safely harbored in German ports, all useless in navigation. The total number of English vessels held idle by the war is 195, of which 49 have been captured, 75 detained in German ports and 71 held up in the Baltic and Black seas. This estimate puts the number of British vessels of 100 tons gross now plying as 10,000.

THE ROAD MARKERS

Las Vegas road enthusiasts are peeved because of the persistent attempts of Colfax county people, especially residents of Raton, to direct transcontinental travelers to Santa Fe by way of Cimarron and Taos, a round-about and difficult journey, over roads that are not improved. The route of the ocean-to-ocean highway is by way of French, Maxwell, Springer, Wagon Mound, Watrous and Las Vegas. As was stated yesterday, the Colfax county people have made objection to the marking of the highway by the Automobile Club of Southern California, which is placing signs all the way from Kansas City to the coast.

It is proposed to take the matter up with the office of State Engineer French, requesting that the state highway be marked. So much money has been spent by the state and the various counties in the ocean-to-ocean route that it is now in excellent condition from one end of New Mexico to the other, and the engineers' office undoubtedly will resent any attempt to direct travelers by another route, especially one that is not in good shape to handle transcontinental travel.

The ocean-to-ocean highway is attracting hundreds of tourists this way every month, and it is of as much value to Raton and Colfax county as Las Vegas and San Miguel counties. The latter are persistently sent to Cimarron, where numbers

became lost during the past summer and fall and were greatly inconvenienced, the highway will lose its popularity.

The California automobile club has installed large signs in Nebraska, Missouri, Wyoming and Colorado directing tourists over this route. It looks like poor sportsmanship on the part of Colfax county to refuse to allow the markers to be placed within its borders, leaving a gap of many miles in a road adequately marked from Kansas City to the coast.

LENOIR COMES BACK FILLED WITH "PEP"

SAYS TEXAS PEOPLE WILL COME HERE TO SPEND SUMMER VACATIONS

Phil H. LeNoir, secretary-elect of the Las Vegas Commercial club, returned yesterday from a trip to Texas, where he visited leading city boosters in Dallas, Fort Worth and other large Texas places. Mr. LeNoir, who is noted for his "pep" and originality, returned more peppery than ever and with a lot of new ideas in his head. He will get to work on January 1, not even taking "time out" for the holiday.

Mr. LeNoir says he found Texas people responsive when he suggested summer vacation trips to the New Mexico mountains. One of the best publicity men in Texas promised to help Mr. LeNoir advertise the climate and scenery of Las Vegas and surroundings, saying that Texas people are growing somewhat weary of Colorado and are sure to appreciate the novelties which this section of New Mexico can offer to the summer pleasure seeker.

Mr. LeNoir found Texas people confident of prosperity next year and discouraged by the unfavorable conditions brought about by the failure of the cotton crop to find a profitable market.

Y. SQUAD LOOKING GOOD ON EVE OF GAME

COACH DOWDEN EXPECTS HIS PUPILS TO MAKE NEWTON SWALLOW DEFEAT

The Y. M. C. A. basketball team will take its final workout at the armory tonight in preparation for the opening game of the season scheduled for tomorrow afternoon with the fast Santa Fe railroad team of Newton, Kas. The Y. basketballers are in the best of shape to put up a classy contest, and basketball enthusiasts are looking forward to a scrappy game, as the Newton team is reported to be exceptionally strong this year.

Last night the squad went through a short signal drill in the gym and tonight will play a practice game of regulation length against a picked team of scrubs. The coach has not announced the lineup, but the following men will constitute the squad for Friday's contest: Stewart, White, McCullough, Madril, McInerney, Gallegos and Montano.

The preliminaries will start promptly at 2:30 o'clock and the big game at 3:15. Admission to any part of the house 25 cents and 10 cents.

In the Kid League
Yesterday at the Y. the Braves won from the Pirates, the Athletics from the Cubs and the White Sox from the Giants. The game between the Athletics and the Cubs was the closest of the series, an extra period being necessary to play off the tie. The director has been giving the boys extra attention during the holidays and has planned a hike to the springs for Saturday. Skating is reported to be good. The boys and director will walk up in the morning and ride back on the train in the evening. The boys are enthusiastic skaters and greatly enjoyed the day some time ago when a similar trip was made. Any boy desiring to join the Y. M. C. A. hockey is invited to report at the Y. Saturday morning at 8 o'clock. Each must bring his dinner, skates and 25 cents in money to pay train fare one way. The boys will finish the day with a swim at the Y.

GAMBLING TABLES? TUT!

Telluride, Colo., Dec. 31.—Clarence Tyler, a policeman, was shot in the head early today in a pistol battle with two bandits who had just held up a saloon. His condition is critical. The robbers entered the saloon, covered with revolvers the score of men inside and robbed the cash register and gambling tables of about \$700. After shooting Tyler the men escaped.

OPEN HOUSE FOR PUBLIC AT Y. M. C. A.

EVERYBODY IS INVITED TO GREET THE ASSOCIATION ON NEW YEAR'S

The following announcement of a New Year's reception at the Y. M. C. A. has been sent to The Optic:
The Y. M. C. A. will be in the reception line on the New Year's birthday, and will be glad to have you drop in and get better acquainted. The Y. M. C. A. has had its ups and downs, of course, just like any other institution, but it thinks as it is about to enter upon its fourteenth year that 1915 holds in store some mighty good things. So just drop in for a few minutes and let the association know you are with it and wish it the best year in its history.

This invitation includes everybody—the fathers and mothers and the brothers and sisters, sweethearts, chums, etc. Members, show your friends around in the Y. M. C. A. on New Year's day. Show them what we have in our city for the moral, social and physical betterment of manhood. Boys, this is a good day to take father around and show him the inside of the Y. M. C. A. The building will be open from basement to roof, and a number of activities are being arranged. Of course, everybody will want to adjourn for a while in the afternoon to see the basketball game between the Y. and Newton, which is called for 3 o'clock. All the games at the Y. building are to be free, as they were on Christmas day.

There is a growing tendency on the part of many mayors of cities throughout the country to issue a proclamation that all fathers shall spend January 1 with their boys. This is an extremely practical idea, and one which the Y. M. C. A. would like to see inaugurated in Las Vegas. Many a boy has gone on the rocks because he did not have the companionship of his father. Many a father has neglected this until a barrier has come between him and the boy, and they do not meet any more on common ground. The boy needs the companionship of his father, needs to know the father's aspirations for his boy, and the boy needs to have that high respect for his father that will cause him to live up to and reproduce his father's ideals.

Whether or not we have the proclamation in Las Vegas, the Y. M. C. A. offers this suggestion, and there is no better place in the city to get on good terms with your boy than at the Y. M. C. A. New Year's birthday.

FIREMEN SECURE FINE LIST OF PRIZES

MANY MASQUERS WILL BE AT TRACTED TO NEW YEAR'S BALL TONIGHT

The list of prizes is as follows:
King
One hundred calling cards by The Optic Publishing company.
Queen
Bouquet by Perry Onion, the florist.

Most Handsome Costume
First prize for ladies, manicure set, Peter J. Emenaker; second, electric toaster, Las Vegas Light and Power company.

Most Appropriate Costume
First prize for ladies, hand painted chocolate pot, Rosenthal Furniture company; second, five-pound box of candy, Potter Candy company.

First prize for gentlemen, electric lamp, Charles O'Malley, the electrician; second, pair of dress shoes, Hedgecock's Shoe store.
Most Original Costume
First prize for ladies, Navajo rug, Will G. Doll, the curio man; second, jewel box, Bacharach Brothers.

First prize for gentlemen, box of cigars, Charles Greenleaf; second, box of neckties, Joseph Hillbrand, the tailor.
Best Acted Character
First prize for ladies, silver mesh bag, E. G. Murphy; second, rug, J. C. Johnson and Son.

First prize for gentlemen, briar pipe, Clement Curio store; second, box of cigars, D. G. Tucker of the Antlers.
Most Ludicrous Costume
First prize for ladies, picture, Center Block Drug company; second, satin

finished umbrella stand, Page Furniture and Undertaking company.

First prize for gentlemen, ham, Las Vegas Mercantile company; second, box of cigars by Laubach and Benjamin of the Lobby.

Best Juvenile Costume

First prize for ladies, plume, Mrs. Frank Strass; second, one pound box of candy, O. L. Gregory.

First prize for gentlemen, one dozen cabinet photographs, John L. Tooker; second, one dozen tickets to Photoplay theater, Rosenwald and Browne.

Best Waiter

First prize for ladies, hat, Mrs. Annie Standish; second, lady picture, Bally's Curio store.

First prize for gentlemen, umbrella, M. Greenberger; second, gentlemen's handkerchief set, Cellers Dry Goods company.

Cake Walk

First prize, cake, Graaf and Hayward bakery department; second, dress shirt, Talchert, the haberdasher.

Best Tango Dancer

First prize, six full lessons in Castle's latest dances, Mrs. Ed O'Brien; second, shaving set, Bacharach Brothers.

WAR

(Continued from page one)

since the European war began, Senator Walsh of Montana told the senate today in a speech reviewing interruptions to American commerce, and highly endorsing the American government's recent note to Great Britain.

Four ships were consigned to Holland, 14 to Italy and 13 to Sweden, he said.

"At Gibraltar 9,350 tons American copper have been piled up."

After giving statistics to show that Italy and Great Britain were among the greatest consumers of cotton, Senator Walsh said:

"There is no sentiment of hostility or animosity in the United States toward Great Britain save in sporadic cases of no consequence in the sum total of the national disposition. God grant that our relation may always remain friendly, the feeling engendered by the aggressions complained of is akin to the surprise and regret experienced by one who has been cruelly wronged by a friend and who remains confident that a personal explanation and candid conference will wipe out all differences and bring a speedy reparation. It is in this spirit the American people await the result of the well timed note of the president."

BRITISH FORCES TAKE NEW BISMARCK ISLAND

BOUGAINVILLE, ONE OF THE SOLOMONS, IS WRESTED FROM THE GERMANS

Melbourne, Australia, Dec. 31 (via London).—British forces have occupied Bougainville, the largest of the Solomon islands. It was announced here today that the British flag had been hoisted over the island on December 9.

The Solomon islands lie to the southeast of the Bismarck archipelago. On September 11 the British Pacific fleet occupied Herbertshöhe, the seat of government of the Bismarck archipelago and of those members of the Solomon group under German control, including Bougainville. Several of the Solomon islands are British possessions, but Bougainville since 1899 has been held by Germany. This island is nearly 140 miles long.

RANDALL IS DRY

Los Angeles, Dec. 31.—Charles H. Randall, congressman-elect from the Ninth California district, set at rest today speculation as to whether he is a democrat or a prohibitionist, by issuing a statement declaring himself a prohibitionist, the first of that party to take a seat in the national house. He said one of his first acts will be to introduce a drastic prohibition bill, making it unlawful for liquor to be imported, manufactured, sold or given away in the United States. At the election in November Randall's name was on both the prohibition and democratic tickets.

SWISS MUST PAY

Berne, Switzerland, Dec. 31 (via Paris).—The heavy military expense thrust upon Switzerland by her being compelled to support an army in armed neutrality was almost the sole subject considered today by the Berne parliament. At the end of the sitting a recess was taken. The treasury, it is said, must provide for a deficit of 23,000,000 francs. Taxes were doubled on alcohol and were increased on checks, postal orders, telephone, state railway tickets and freight shipments.

TOMORROW THE BEGINNING OF NEW YEAR

(Continued From Page One.)

ing the Epworth League of the First Methodist Episcopal church will hold a watch service to celebrate the coming of the new year by both social and religious programs.

The services will begin at 8:15 o'clock with a short literary and musical program. At the close of the program there will be a social with light refreshments lasting until 11 o'clock. From 11 until 12 will be a religious service under the direction of the pastor, Rev. Royal A. Simonds. Everybody is welcome to attend. The following is a copy of the literary and musical program:

Piano Solo.....Miss Ruth Conrad
Reading.....Miss Josephine O'Malley
Solo.....Mrs. John Arbuckle
Piano Solo.....Miss Vivian Hedgecock
Reading.....Miss Margaret Larkin
Entertainment.....O'Malley Twins
Solo.....Miss Josephine O'Malley
Piano Solo.....Mrs. Tom Johnson
Violin Solo.....Miss Ruth Seelinger

Pandemonium at Midnight

New Year's day will be hailed in every part of the city at its dawn. Whistles will screech, bells will ring and all the merry-makers will raise pandemonium with tin pans, horns and all other manner of instruments.

Business Will Stop

The entire day will be observed as a holiday by merchants, bankers and office men. The stores, for the most part, will keep closed. The banks have declared the day a civil holiday. City, county and state officials will shut up shop to celebrate. The East Las Vegas postoffice will make one delivery and will remain open between the hours of 8 and 10 o'clock in the morning. No edition of The Optic will be published tomorrow. The drug stores will remain open, as usual, to take care of any cases of overeating. The barber shops will be closed all day, but will remain open until 10 o'clock tonight to shave all late comers.

Churches to Have Services

Several of the churches will observe the day with religious services. There will be a celebration of Holy Communion at St. Paul's memorial church at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning. The Catholic churches will observe the day as a religious occasion, with special services. At the Church of the Immaculate Conception, the East side Catholic church, there will be two masses, one at 7 o'clock and the other at 10 o'clock. New Year's day is set apart by the Catholic church as an occasion of thanksgiving. It is a holy day of obligation, upon which all the faithful are expected to attend mass. At the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows on the West side there will be services at the regular Sunday hours.

Reception at Y. M. C. A.

The day will be observed at the Y. M. C. A. by a reception for the public. Open house will be kept at the association on the first day of the year. All games in the building will be free. The place will be open from basement to roof and air visitors will be taken on a tour of inspection. The Y. M. C. A. cordially invites all to attend.

Big Meal at Noon

Las Vegas will take an adjournment at noon in order to partake of the big meal of the day. This, of course, will be a gala affair, as all holiday dinners are. New Year's resolutions will be discussed around the festive board, and many the good resolves that will be made, and broken, shortly afterwards.

Big Basketball Game

After all have recuperated from the effects of the dinner, ways and means will be devised for spending the afternoon in holiday fashion. The main attraction will be the basketball game between the Las Vegas Y. M. C. A. and the Santa Fe railroad apprentice team of Newton, Kas. This will occur at 3 o'clock at the armory. The Y. has a mighty good looking bunch, and reports from Newton indicate that the railroad boys will place a fine team on the floor. The game will be a "humdinger" from start to finish.

Skating in Canyon

A large crowd of young people will take advantage of the holiday to journey to the canyon for an afternoon of skating. The recent cold snap has put the ice in fine condition. This will prove an enjoyable way of spending the day.

In the Evening

In the afternoon and evening the picture shows will run special holiday programs. Both the Photoplay and the Mutual will hold matinees, commencing at 3 o'clock. The Photoplay

A Parker
Lucky Curve
Fountain
PEN
Guaranteed
By
TAUPERT'S

will present "Sunny Jim" in three reels of pictures, both afternoon and night. The Mutual will feature a two-reel drama, "Eric, the Red's Wooing," and a comedy reel. In the evening the Browns will show another installment of "The Trey of Hearts."

The Prize Fight

At 8 o'clock at the armory one of the big sporting events of the day will occur, when Young Duran of Las Vegas meets Benny Chaves of Trinidad in a 10-round mill. This affair has been looked forward to for a long time. Both boys have worked hard, and are sure of putting up a good bout. A large crowd has signified its intention of being present.

And then New Year's day will be over, and Las Vegas will settle back into the routine of another year. The new year of 1915 will have been fairly launched, after a joyous beginning.

NO MORE CODE

London, Dec. 31.—The London Times has stopped the insertion of code or puzzle advertisements in its wanted columns. The reason, it is said, is fear that the columns were being employed for the purpose of communicating messages to the enemy in Germany. All the London newspapers go to Germany without being censored, but all private mail matter is subjected to careful scrutiny.

CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE

Chicago, Dec. 31.—Rains interfering with the Argentine harvest gave a little firmness to the wheat market today, but the effect wore off. After opening ¼ to ½ cent higher, prices underwent a sag that for the most part went well under last night's level. The close was unsettled at ¼ to 1½ cent net advance.

Absence of any urgent demand

weakened corn. Opening prices, which varied from a shade off to ½ cent up, were followed by a downturn that carried the market generally ¼ cent or more below the previous close. The close was nervous ¼ to ½ cent above last night.

Oats took the same course as corn.

Higher quotations for hogs tended to lift provisions. The closing quotations for the day were:

Wheat, May 1.29½; July 1.18½.
Corn, May 73½; July 74½.
Oats, Dec. 49½; May 53½.
Pork, Jan. \$18.62½; May \$19.27½.
Lard, Jan. \$10.50; May \$10.70.
Ribs, Jan. \$10.15; May \$10.55.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

New York, Dec. 31.—The close of today's stagnant session also marked the conclusion of the dull year in the local stock mark since 1878.

Closing sales were as follows:

Amalgamated Copper.....51½
American Sugar Refining.....103
Atchafson.....93
China Copper.....83½
Northern Pacific.....99½
Reading.....143½
Southern Pacific.....82
Union Pacific.....116
United States Steel.....43½
United States Steel, pfd.....104½

KANSAS CITY LIVE STOCK

Kansas City, Dec. 31.—Hogs, receipts 7,000, Market higher. Bulk \$7.10@7.25; heavy \$7.20@7.30; pigs \$6.25@6.75.

Cattle, receipts 1,500. Market steady. Prime fed steers \$9@10; western steers \$7@9; calves \$6@10.

Sheep, receipts 5,500. Market steady. Lambs \$8.25@8.70; yearlings \$6.50@7.60.

WANTED.—Clean cotton rags at this office.

PRE-INVENTORY CLEARANCE

AT

BACHARACH'S

THIS IS A NONA FIDE BARGAIN EVENT

AT WHICH WE TAKE BIG LOSSES

Everything throughout the length and breadth of this store—all short lines—all broken lots—are offered regardless of profit—providing the most decisive bargains of the season.

We invite you to share in a host of money-saving opportunities that have no equal in this vicinity.

"THE STORE OF QUALITY"

BACHARACH'S

E. LAS VEGAS. N.M.